

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 17, 24 and 25 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-17, 19, 20, 24 and 25 are presented for examination.

Claims 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants submit that claims 7 and 8 have been amended to appear in proper condition for allowance.

Applicants acknowledge that claims 7, 8 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten to include the features of the base claim.

Claims 1-6, 10-17, 19, 20, 24 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurosawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,466,654) in view of Fukui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,742,837). Applicants submit that the present claims are patentable over Kurosawa in view of Fukui.

Kurosawa discloses a document image processing apparatus. The method performed by the apparatus includes an image input section inputting a document as image data by optical operation such as a scanner apparatus. The document image data is stored in an image memory section. A layout analysis section executes a layout analysis for the image data stored in an image memory section. The analysis result is stored in the layout information memory section as the layout information. Thus, the layout analysis section extracts each position of paragraphs, character lines, and words in a text block of a document image. The paragraph, the character line and the word extracted by the layout analysis is

respectively called a block, a character line block, and a word block. See Kurosawa at col. 4, ll. 11-33.

Fukui discloses a method and an apparatus for document formatting such that a desired formatting can be obtained without post-processing operations. In the apparatus, document data representing the document, including figure data representing figure elements of the document, and region data indicating layout regions to which the document is to be laid out, are inputted, candidate layouts for each figure element to be laid out are generated, one of the generated candidate layouts is selected, and the document is formatted in the layout region, according to the selected one of the candidate layouts. See Fukui at Abstract.

Claim 1 of the present application recites associating an identifier with each data record in a data stream wherein the identifier indicates a type of information included within a data record. First, applicants submit that both Kurosawa and Fukui fail to disclose or suggest a data stream having data records. Moreover, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Kurosawa and Fukui of associating an identifier indicating a type of information with a data record. Since neither Kurosawa nor Fukui disclose or suggest associating an identifier with each data record in a data stream, any combination of Kurosawa and Fukui would also fail to disclose or suggest such a feature. Consequently, claim 1 is patentable over Kurosawa in view of Fukui.

Claims 2-9 depend from claim 1 and include additional features. Thus, claims 2-9 are also patentable over Kurosawa in view of Fukui.

Claim 10 recites receiving a data stream in which each data record therein is associated with an identifier indicating a type of information included within a data record. For the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 10 is patentable over

Kurosawa in view of Fukui. Since claims 11-16 depend from claim 10 and include additional features, claims 11-16 are also patentable over Kurosawa in view of Fukui.

Claim 17 recites each data record is formatted within the one or more format regions, an identifier indicating a type of information included within a data record, and receiving the data stream, where each data record of the one or more data records therein is associated with each identifier of the one or more data records. Accordingly, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 17 is patentable over Kurosawa in view of Fukui. Because claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 17 and include additional features, claims 19 and 20 are also patentable over Kurosawa in view of Fukui.

Claim 24 recites receiving a data stream in which each data record therein is associated with an identifier indicating a type of information included within a data record. Therefore, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 24 is patentable over Kurosawa in view of Fukui.

Claim 25 recites a processor to receive a data stream of one or more data records, where each data record therein is associated with an identifier indicating a type of information included within a data record. Thus, for the reasons described above with respect to claim 1, claim 25 is patentable over Kurosawa in view of Fukui.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.


The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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